Congressmen Ask Probes of FBI Practices

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A House Judiciary subcommittee chairman said yesterday he will call former and current top officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to testify on the FBI practice of maintaining personal files on members of Congress.

Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier (D-Wis.), chairman of the Administration of Justice Subcommittee, was one of a number of legislators who yesterday issued calls for investigations into the FBI practice revealed in yesterday's Washington Post.

The Post story quoted two former high-ranking FBI officials—Cartha D. DeLoach and Louis B. Nichols, aides at different times to the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover—as saying that the bureau had kept files containing information on the girl friends and drinking habits of senators and congressmen.

It quoted a senior FBI agent as saying that the bureau continues to gather such information.

DeLoach and Nichols said the data were kept in the FBI's general files and were not the result of direct surveillance of members of Congress.

Calling the practice as "insidious as Watergate," Kastenmeier said he will call FBI officials to testify under oath within the next three weeks. Among the witnesses he expects to call, he said, will be FBI Director Clarence J. Kelley and former acting Director L. Patrick Gray III.

The FBI had no comment yesterday.

Kastenmeier said his subcommittee, in cooperation with another subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, would investigate the FBI files as part of its probes into invasions of privacy.

"The Congress has been lied to," he said. "There has been a cover-up so this would not be revealed."

Calling the files symptomatic of a police-state mentality, Kastenmeier said, "Anytime you have files on congressmen you have the question of destruction of our form of government because of intimidation of members of Congress."

Sen. John O. Pastore (D-R.I.), chairman of the Appropriations Committee's judiciary subcommittee, said he would want an investigation of the FBI files by a select congressional committee expected to be established to probe domestic spying by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The caucus of Senate Democrats is scheduled to meet today to deal with resolutions calling for establishment of such a committee.

"If (the disclosures in The Post) are true, this is a sad commentary on a democratic and open society," Pastore said. "Not only must those who are guilty be brought to account for it, but the procedure must stop," he said.

Pastore added, "If we get into this door-knocking in the middle of the night, using it for purposes of blackmailing a man who stands up and says what he thinks, then I'm afraid we are drifting away

See FBI, A4, Col. 5

FBI Aides Facing Hill Questions

FBI, From A1

from what made this republic great."

This was an apparent reference to a disclosure in The Post story that former FBI Director Hoover had ordered derogatory material gathered on the personal habits of former Rep. William R. Anderson (D-Tenn.) after Anderson made a speech criticizing Hoover.

Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), a sponsor of a resolution to establish a joint congressional committee investigate the CIA, said he would assume such a committee also would probe FBI intelligence gathering activites.

He said he intends to look into the FBI practices in his role as a member of the Appropriations Committee, which handles the FBI's budget.

Another member of the Appropriations Committee, Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton (D-Mo.), said he hopes the select committee will have broad enough jurisdiction to investigate the FBI.

Calling the FBI practice outrageous, Sen. John V. Tunney (D-Calif.), a member of the Judiciary Committee, said he will ask for an investigation by the committee.

"It demonstrates that the Judiciary Committee has been lied to," he said. "Apparently the purpose was to get something on congressmen and senators so they could be bent to the director's way of thinking." He added, "I think it's horrifying."

Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson (D-Ill.), who was named in The Post story as having been subject of the information-gathering program, said he will ask the FBI director for a full report on what he called the bureau's "police-state tactics."